



Downtown Columbia

DOWNTOWN COLUMBIA PARTNERSHIP (DCP) BOARD OF DIRECTORS Minutes of the October 6, 2015 Special Board Meeting

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD IN ATTENDANCE

Gabe Chung, The Howard Hughes Corporation
Greg Fitchitt, The Howard Hughes Corporation
Ruth Hoang, The Howard Hughes Corporation
Milton Matthews, Columbia Association (CA)
Nancy Tucker, The Howard Hughes Corporation
Ashley Venable, General Growth Properties
Barb Nicklas, Executive Director

MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN ATTENDANCE

Onassis Burress, General Growth Properties, via phone
Susan Case, Howard County General Hospital, via phone
Leonardo McClarty, Howard County Chamber of Commerce

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Jeff Agnor, Attorney for DCP, via phone
Gerri Colbert, The Howard Hughes Corporation

Meeting called to order at 11 a.m.

Mr. Fitchitt explained that the reason for this Special Meeting is to discuss changes to the budget as a result of the Within Reach Festival. He said that since the expenses will be passed through the DCP, there is a reforecast of the budget.

Ms. Nicklas stated that the budget has been increased to accommodate the pass-through expenses, but there is no change in the DCP's financial exposure, which had been budgeted for \$20,000.

Ms. Hoang asked if this change affects the organization's non-profit status. Mr. Agnor said it does not because events such as this are part of the function of the DPC.

Mr. McClarty stated that since the DCP is a 501c-4 non-profit organization, sponsorships are deductible. Ms. Nicklas agreed they are deductible as a business expense.

Mr. Matthews inquired if there is a need to send the updated budget to the Howard County. Ms. Nicklas said that she did not think so, but would be sending it to the County accompanying the minutes.

It was decided that the Board should vote on this budget change.

Mr. Fitchitt announced that Mark Thompson is not present at the meeting because he has resigned his position on the Board due to his transfer to the Economic Development Authority and that Valdis Lazdins, the new director of Howard County Planning and Zoning, or his designee, will be replacing Mr. Thompson. However, neither Mr. Lazdins nor his designee was present at this time in the meeting.

Mr. Matthews made a motion to accept the revised budget reforecast to include expenses associated with the Within Reach Festival. Ms. Venable seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

Ms. Venable asked for an update on the Festival. Ms. Nicklas said that the advertising is kicking in today and that there seems to be a good amount of traffic on social media. But, there are only 50 tickets sold so far. Ms. Nicklas explained that early ticket sales for festival-type events usually are low but that all avenues are being exhausted to make this a successful event.

Mr. Fitchitt and Ms. Nicklas explained that three scenarios are being considered if it looks like the event will not be well-attended. They are: 1) postponing, 2) cancelling or 3) distributing comp tickets to increase attendance. All agreed that pushing out comp tickets is the best scenario. Mr. Matthews said he would send out information on the Festival to CA's social network.

Raj Kudchadkar, deputy director at Howard County Planning and Zoning, entered the meeting. Mr. Fitchitt recapped the meeting for Mr. Kudchadkar.

The next regular meeting of the DCP Board of Directors will be held on Tuesday, October 13, 2015 at noon at the Howard Hughes offices.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.